

Ohio Genealogy Research

"The Gateway to the West"

1763 Britain ceded control of area to United States.

1780s+ Ohio River was main route to newly opened West.

1787 Northwest Territory opened for settlement.

1818 National Road completed to Ohio River at Wheeling.

1825 Erie Canal opened followed by Ohio's canals, and both heavily used for going West.

1830s National Road completed to Vandalia, Illinois.

1850s Railroads used to open the West.

Ohio Network of American History Research Centers

(<http://www.bgsu.edu/colleges/library/cac/genealogy/gene3.html>)

The eight research centers were established in 1970 to aid in the collection, preservation, and accessibility of research materials related to Ohio history. Find the Center that covers the part of the State you wish to research and ask for their assistance for the records you cannot find.

The Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center (<http://index.rbhayes.org/hayes>)

Material relates to President Hayes and his era, but also includes indexed manuscripts and newspapers. The Obituary Index has over 700,000 entries with Ohio libraries state-wide adding entries frequently.

Auditor of the State of Ohio (<http://www.auditor.state.oh.us/StudentResources>)

Because Ohio's original land surveys are the most complicated of any U.S. state, the Auditor of State issues a free publication titled *The Official Ohio Lands Book* (PDF format).

Ohio Genealogical Society (<http://www.ogs.org>)

The Society is the largest state genealogical society in the United States. The online library catalog provides access to the resources ranging from over 30,000 published works to 250,000 surname cards. The web site provides access to various Ohio-related genealogical databases. The library also maintains a by-mail loan collection.

The Ohio Historical Society (<http://www.ohiohistory.org>)

The Society's Archives/Library contains the largest collection of Ohio's newspapers in existence—4,500 titles, 20,000 volumes, and almost 48,000 rolls of microfilm. The microfilm can be Interlibrary Loaned with the printed ILL Forms for \$3.00 per roll. Also the library holds many other Ohio resources including land and death records.

The State Library of Ohio (<http://winslo.state.oh.us/services/genealogy/index.html>)

The State Library of Ohio's genealogy collection is comprised of over 35,000 books and 6,000 microforms. The collection emphasizes Ohio as the "Gateway to the West".

Western Reserve Historical Society Library (<http://www.wrhs.org/library/default.asp>)

The Library of the Western Reserve Historical Society is the largest private American history research center in northern Ohio. Its holdings consist of 235,000 books; 25,000 volumes of newspapers; 30,500 rolls of microfilm, 1,000,000 prints and photographs; and more than 3,000 collections of manuscripts and archives that comprise more than six million items. It is the principal repository for histories, records, and papers relating to the growth and development of Cleveland and the portion of northeastern Ohio known as the Connecticut Western Reserve.

County by County in Ohio Genealogy by Petta Khouw and Genealogy Staff, State Library of Ohio (1996) provides the genealogical resources for each county in Ohio. Access the book online through WorldCat via FirstSearch with OCLC number 56408458.

Ohio Department of Health (<http://www.odh.state.oh.us/vitalstatistics/vitalstats.aspx>)

Vital records include birth December 20, 1908 to present, death January 1, 1945 to present, marriage September 7, 1949 to present, and divorce September 7, 1949 to present.

Birth Records

Records prior to 1908 are located in the probate court of the county where birth occurred.

Death Records

Records prior to 1908 are located in probate court of county where death occurred.

Records from December 20, 1908 through December 31, 1944 are at the Ohio Historical Society.

Divorce Records

Records prior to 1949 are located in the county clerk of courts where divorce occurred.

Land Records

County Recorder has the land records for each county.

Marriage Records

Records prior to 1949 are located in the probate court of county where marriage occurred.